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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

School Committee,

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

Town of Montague,

1876-7.

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1876-77

MONTAGUE, MASS.

COUNCIL T. BAGNALL, TURNERS FALLS, MASS.

1877.

ANNUAL REPORT

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Town of Montague,

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MONTAGUE, MASS.:

PRINTED BY CECIL T. BAGNALL, TURNERS FALLS.

1877.

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TREASURER'S REPORT.

J. H. Root, Treasurer, in account with the Town of Montague.

	DR.
To Cash and balance due on Taxes, Feb. 18, 1876,	\$1560 22
" received for Licenses,	975 00
" " rent of Lecture Room,	30 00
" " " Town House,	15 00
" " of Greenfield,	24 28
" " Wendell,	28 38
" " Leverett and Northfield,	47 29
" " Fitchburg,	96 68
" " Boston,	24 28
" " of County, Millers River Bridge,	400 00
" " Dog Fund,	173 05
" " of State for Corporation Taxes,	203 36
" " " Bank Taxes,	909 85
" " " State Aid,	680 00
" " " Paupers,	158 52
" " " School Fund,	239 96
" " of R. N. Oakman, Interest on Taxes, 1875,	145 00
" " of E. Demond, " " 1876,	212 00
" Borrowed by vote of Town,	4800 00
Amount of Tax Bill for 1876,	35,956 02
	\$46,678 89
	CR.
By paid State Tax,	\$2070 00
" County Tax,	3,993 73
" Bank Tax,	3099 34
" State Aid,	482 00
" State Licenses,	243 75
" Borrowed Money,	4800 00
" School Orders,	6139 75
" Highway Orders,	6849 32
" Selectmen's and Pauper Orders,	17,114 81
Balance due on Taxes, 1875,	200 00
Balance due on Taxes, 1876,	1379 71
Cash on hand,	306 48
	\$46,678 89

J. H. ROOT, TREASURER.

SCHOOLING.

COMMITTEE'S ACCOUNT.

Paid for Wages and Teachers,	\$4881 99
" Transportation,	362 69
" Tuition,	86 67
" Fuel,	275 53
" Care of Houses,	240 00
" Repairs,	149 66
" Miscellaneous, (books, crayons, &c.)	143 21
	<hr/>
Remaining in Treasury,	\$6139 75
	100 21
	<hr/>
	\$6239 96
Appropriation,	\$6000 00
Received from State,	239 96
	<hr/>
	\$6239 96

SEYMOUR ROCKWELL,)
C. H. DANIELS, } SCHOOL COMMITTEE.
W. E. EVERETT,)

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS' ACCOUNT.

Paid for Grading 7th street,	\$1378 00
" " 1st street,	360 00
" Repairs on Suspension Bridge,	419 14
" Repairs on Highways at Turners Falls, 1932	12
	—————
	\$4089 26
Paid for Stone,	\$67 25
" Plank and Railing,	161 25
" Repairs in front of Town Hall,	124 00
" Repairs of highways at Centre,	1498 71
	—————
	1851 21
Paid for Plank and Railing,	\$77 21
" Repairs on Highways at Millers Falls, 831 60	—————
	908 81
Total Commissioners' Orders,	\$6849 28
Town Appropriation for Highways,	\$5000 00
Town Appropriation for 1st and 7th streets,	1250 00
Deficiency,	599 28
	—————
	\$6849 28

THAXTER SHAW,
GEO. F. ADAMS,
EDWARD BAKER, } ROAD COMMISSIONERS.

PAUPERS.

OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Paid Medicine and Medical Advice,	\$512 09
Digging Graves,	16 00
Funeral Expenses,	91 50
Mrs. Burnham,	178 60
Mrs. M. Sullivan,	24 29
M. Strahan,	17 59
M. Clary,	8 00
Mrs. Terry,	15 22
John Desmond,	48 00
Joseph Wolf,	15 00
M. Cassidy,	114 00
D. Schrugrove,	10 50
Willie Potter,	43 00
Mrs. Russell,	13 27
George F. Potter,	5 00
Antoine Anthony,	25 00
N. Bacon,	16 07
Mrs. McAllister,	26 15
Mrs. McCarty,	18 40
Daniel Donahue,	14 00
C. Redding,	29 00
Mrs. C. Marsh,	4 06
Oliver Morris,	6 30
Fred. Morey,	10 00
Ellis Family,	30 62
Loveland Child,	52 00
Mary Burnham,	9 50
H. B. Graves,	30 23
Tirza McNall,	50 00
Mary Grotou,	8 00
E. A. Britt,	39 44
Lawson Boy,	39 20
Cora Boswell,	37 00
Tramps, Turners Falls,	68 60
Pierson Family,	73 98
Cephas Burnham,	19 50
M. M. Cook,	26 00
McGuire Child,	144 00
Samsoci Family,	16 00
Wm. Casey,	48 70

Paid Mrs. Joseph Boleo,	31 60
Mrs. Mary O'Leary,	78 81
Mrs. Jerry Sullivan,	79 96
Mrs. Ben. Tilden,	49 32
Mrs. John Little,	12 00
Mrs. Jerry McCarty,	10 00
O'Keefe Family,	15 15
Mrs. Ann Young,	23 33
Wm. Crackle,	31 74
Geo. L. Horton,	155 60
Mrs. Wm. Knights,	13 00
Patrick Grace,	24 95
Comiskey Child,	38 39
Norman Potter,	10 15
Chas. Burnham,	17 00
Joseph Clark,	12 50
Mrs. Ware,	12 07
Gore Family,	8 38
Fanny Cook,	13 07
Paid on Town Farm Account,	1030 12

Total for support of Poor,	\$3620 95
Town appropriation,	\$2000 00
Received from State,	158 52
Due from State,	883 70
Received from Fitchburg;	96 68
" Greenfield,	24 28
" Boston,	24 28
" Wendell,	28 38
Due from Florida,	87 77
" Coleraine,	28 00
" Gill,	58 36
" Middleboro,	13 27
" Greenfield,	16 28
" Conway,	16 07
" Mrs. Tilden's Estate,	49 32
	\$3484 91
Deficiency,	136 04
	————— \$3620 95

EDWIN DEMOND, }
 J. F. BARTLETT, } OVERSEERS OF POOR.
 G. EDGERTON, }

TOWN FARM.

OVERSEERS' ACCOUNT.

Received for Pasturing,	\$15 55
" Walnuts,	2 25
" Milk and Vegetables,	17 84
" Stabling Horses,	25 32
" Old Iron,	2 81
" Calf,	15 00
" Beef,	124 20
" Chickens,	5 90

\$208 87

Received from Town Treasurer,	1030 12
	\$1238 99

Paid for 1 yoke oxen,	\$165 00
" Labor,	26 35
" J. B. Cary,	240 10
" Blacksmithing,	23 68
" Groceries and Provisions,	218 75
" Meat,	100 51
" Meal and Flour,	106 52
" Clothing,	45 19
" Farming Tools,	71 00
" Repairs,	74 95
" Medicine and Medical Attendance,	67 00
" Funeral Expenses,	15 72
" Calves,	30 00
" Insurance,	27 00
" Making Cider,	8 20
" Repairing Shoes,	1 50
" Tinware and Repairs,	17 52

—— \$1238 99

INVENTORY OF TOWN FARM PROPERTY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1877.

Real Estate,	\$4200 00
Live Stock—2 Oxen,	\$130 00
4 Cows,	120 00
1 Horse,	75 00
2 Two-Year Olds,	35 00

Live Stock—3 Yearlings,	\$30 00
1 Swine,	18 00
2 Fat Hogs,	38 00
24 Fowls,	12 00

	\$458 00
Produce and Provisions—6 Tons Hay,	\$120 00
1½ " Rye Straw,	18 00
15 Bushels Corn,	11 25
18 " Oats,	9 00
16 " Rye,	12 00
6 " Potatoes,	4 50
80 " Turnips,	40 00
30 Gallons Vinegar,	7 50
270 " Cider,	21 60
2 Barrels Apples,	2 00
200 lbs. Pork,	25 00
150 lbs. Squashes,	2 00

	272 85
Household Furniture,	350 00
Farming Tools,	250 00
Due on Farm Accounts,	36 87

Inventory, Feb. 13th, 1877,	\$5567 72
" 16th, 1876,	5627 61

Loss,	\$59 81
Paid from Treasury,	\$1030 12
Interest on Town Farm Debt,	300 00
Taxes on Town Farm Property,	30 00

	\$1360 12
Total cost of Almshouse,	\$1419 93

There has been furnished 241 weeks' board to inmates, besides giving entertainment to 299 Tramps, which make the weekly cost of boarding, clothing and care of the inmates about \$3.06 per week.

EDWIN DEMOND,
J. F. BARTLETT,
G. EDGERTON, } OVERSEERS OF POOR.

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

STATE AND COUNTY TAXES.

State Tax,	\$2070 00
County Tax,	3993 73

Town Appropriation,	\$6000 00
Deficiency,	63 73

	\$6063 73

BANK TAX.

Tax paid to State Treasurer,	\$3099 34
Assessing and Collecting,	31 31

Tax on non-resident Crocker Bank Stock,	\$3130 65
	\$3130 65

STATE AID.

Paid from March 1, 1876, to March 1, 1877,	\$482 00
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INTEREST ON TOWN DEBT.

Paid J. H. Root,	32 50
E. L. Delano,	69 87
Miss Philinda Bardwell,	84 00
Mrs. L. G. Bardwell,	195 00
Crocker Institution for Savings,	528 71
Franklin Savings Institution,	1185 03
Remaining in Treasury,	404 89

Town appropriation,	\$2500 00
	\$2500 00

TOWN DEBTS.

Paid Franklin Savings Institution,	\$6000 00
Crocker Institution for Savings,	2000 00
Remaining in Treasury,	750 00

Town appropriation,	\$8750 00
	\$8750 00

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

TOWN OFFICERS.

J. H. Root, Clerk and Treasurer,	\$100 00
E. Demond, Selectman and Overseer of Poor,	100 00
J. F. Bartlett, " " "	100 00
G. Edgerton, " " "	50 00
R. N. Oakman, Assessor,	75 00
E. Demond, " "	75 00
D. P. Abercrombie, "	75 00
Seymour Rockwell, School Committee,	100 00
C. H. Daniels, " " "	100 00
W. E. Everett, " " "	100 00
Edwin Demond, Collector,	200 00

	\$1075 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

Paid Montague Public Library, from Dog Fund,	\$167 55
Turners Falls Library, " " "	167 55
Millers Falls Co., for Coffer-Dam,	100 00
A. Chenery, Librarian,	50 00
Hearse,	305 00
Runners and Fixtures for Hearse,	32 75
Painting and Repairing Hearse at Centre,	28 00
Tolling Bell and Drawing Hearse at Centre,	43 00
" " Turners Falls,	22 00
Phillip Hannigan, old bill on school house,	44 00
Police,	108 65
Printing and Advertising,	93 40
Old Highway Bills, 1873,	33 44
Travelling and other Expenses,	43 03
Blanks, Express, Stationery, Postage & Books,	43 31
Opposition Turners Falls Bridge,	200 00
Temporary Interest,	112 42
Abatement Taxes for 1874-5, R.N.Oakman,	252 48
" " 1876, E. Demond,	120 80
Expense Committee for Millers River Bridge,	35 00

Paid for Real Estate sold at auction for taxes,	\$46 80
Assessing Bank Tax,	31 30.
Assessors' Books and Expenses,	35 50
Posting Warrants,	6 00
Recording Births, Deaths and Marriages,	79 00
Repairs on Town House and Library,	69 94
Legal Advice,	45 33
Enforcing License,	7 50
	— 2323 75
Total Contingent Expenses,	\$3398 75
Remaining in Treasury,	302 71
	— \$3701 46.
Town Appropriation,	\$1500 00
Interest on Taxes,	357 00
Corporation Tax,	203 36
Bank Tax,	909 85
Liquor Licenses, net,	731 25
	— \$3701 46

SUMMARY OF SELECTMEN'S ORDERS.

Paid on Town Debt,	\$8000 00
Interest on Town Debt,	2095 11
Town Officers,	1075 00
Miscellaneous Expenses,	2323 75
Paupers,	3620 95
	— \$17114 81

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

E. L. Delano,	\$1075 00
J. H. Root,	500 00
Miss Philinda Bardwell,	1200 00
Mrs. L. G. Bardwell,	3000 00
Crocker Institution for Savings,	6000 00
Franklin Savings Institution	15900 00
Total Debt,	\$27675 00

ASSETS.

Due for State Aid,	\$584 00
State Paupers,	883 70
Due from Coleraine,	28 00
Florida,	87 77
Gill, (\$50 for bridge, \$68.36 paupers,) 108 36	
Middleboro,	13 27
Greenfield,	16 28
Conway,	16 07
Mrs. Tilden's Estate,	49 32
Due for unpaid taxes for 1875,	200 00
" " " 1876,	1379 71
Cash on hand,	306 48

Net Town Debt, March 1, 1877,	\$3672 96
" March 1, 1876,	24002 04

Net decrease the current year,	\$32874 93

	\$8872 89

ESTIMATED NECESSARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1877.

State and County Taxes,	\$5000 00
Schooling,	6000 00
Interest on Town Debt,	1500 00
Support of Poor,	2000 00
Repairing Highways,	3500 00
Incidental Expenses,	1500 00
Town Debt,	5000 00

	\$24500 00

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN DEMOND, } SELECTMEN
J. F. BARTLETT, } OF
G. EDGERTON, } MONTAGUE.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
 OF THE
 MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY
 FROM FEB. 1ST, 1876, TO FEB. 1ST, 1877.

Whole number of Volumes in Library,	1446
Added the past year,	70
Number of Families taking Books,	78
Amount expended for Books,	\$81 62
Paid for 250 Catalogues,	45 00
" Re-binding Books,	10 00
" Express, Postage, Blank Books, &c.,	3 70
" Lights and Fuel for Library Room,	3.14
Received from Members,	\$51 31
" Sale of Catalogues,	6 50
" Dog Fund,	167 55
Librarian's Salary,	\$50 00
Money in the Treasury, Feb. 1st, 1877,	90 60

A. CHENERY, LIBRARIAN.

E. A. DEANE, TREASURER.

Montague, Feb. 10, 1877.

R E P O R T

OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE OF MONTAQUE,
FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1877.

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague:

The members of the School Board present the following report for the year just closed :

It is not often man's lot to be able to say "all things well." Indeed he is fortunate can he say "most things well." We will only assume to say "many things well."

SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, TERMS.

We have had under our care during the past year, seventeen schools, a new one having been formed at Turners Falls at the beginning of the year—viz.: The High School, one Grammar, three Grammar and Intermediate, two Intermediate, seven Primary and three ungraded.

In many of our schools we have seen the evidence of progress; in some, while not failures, yet not fulfilling our hopes. In one or

two instances we fear we have failed to grasp the needs of the school.

There have been employed during the year, twenty-five teachers, most of them giving good satisfaction.

We have had, as usual, three terms of ten weeks each, (excepting in the High School, with terms of twelve weeks,) beginning in April, September and December.

ATTENDANCE.

Our efforts and the efforts of our teachers to secure full and punctual attendance have been in a good degree successful. The parents in most cases have cordially seconded these efforts, and but very few instances of opposition have been brought to our notice. We have in our hands certain uncourteous and threatening notes to teachers wholly uncalled for, and which no doubt appear as ridiculous to the writer as to us, now that the second thought is given. The necessity of constant, punctual attendance at school needs no discussion. To gain profit as a member of a school, the scholar *must be present*. Does not the effect of early school life upon the character of the man warrant us in insisting, as far as we can, upon punctuality?

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

In this matter we are directed and controlled by law. There has been evident neglect on the part of some. We shall take measures to carry our part of the responsibility, and sincerely desire the co-operation of all in the difficulties which may attend an enforcement of the law. Especially do we desire the support of those at the head of our manufacturing interests. We expect public sentiment to sustain us.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS.

These have been sufficient during the past year, and will be for the year to come, unless—and it is quite likely—another school be required at Turners Falls. Some of our school rooms and buildings are sadly in need of repairs. An appropriation is greatly needed and earnestly requested for such a purpose.

EXPENDITURES.

There was appropriated for our use \$6000. We received from the State School Fund \$239.96. Our account upon a previous page will show that the greater portion has been expended for wages, fuel and care of school houses. There has been some unavoidable expense for repairs, and as no specific appropriation was made for this purpose, \$159.66 has been taken from the above appropriation.

The law permits us to expend a certain portion of the State School Fund for school supplies. During the year about 20 per cent. of this fund has been used, and Webster's Unabridged Dictionary placed in many of the rooms. Gradually we hope to furnish our schools with maps, charts, globes and other like helpful supplies.

The sum expended for transportation from what were formerly known as the North-West and South Districts is about \$200 less than the estimated cost of maintaining schools in school houses there. Tuition paid to the town of Leverett for scholars in the former Lafayette District is about \$120 less than the estimated cost of maintaining a school there.

The village schools have not been over-burdened by the transportation, while the scholars transported have, in the main, secured advantages superior to what small schools could afford.

The expense of transporting pupils to the High School was a manifest necessity, in order that localities remote from the village might have justice done them. It has also been for the interest

of the school itself. The committee have found this matter of transportation a difficult one to adjust to the exact needs and demands of the public. It is impossible to equalize it to their own or the parents' entire satisfaction. We believe it, however, expedient as an economical and educational measure.

TEACHERS' WAGES.

The average wages per week paid the teachers (\$7.00 the lowest, \$13.87 $\frac{1}{2}$ the highest) is about \$9.00. Employment furnished them thirty weeks. Average price of board about \$4.00. Most of them are without remunerative employment through the twenty-two weeks' vacation. Computing the net proceeds from their year's labors, suggests the question, How serious should be our apprehensions that they will retire so early upon their accumulations as to preclude the possibility of retaining even the most acceptable teachers for more than a limited time? Teachers should be persons of such attainment, intellectual and moral, as to deserve a remuneration equal to that paid in the factory or kitchen. We feel that our teachers are not, and have not been, overpaid. The average wages paid our teachers the past year have been less than the average for three years previous, as an examination of the State records will show. This is brought about chiefly by reducing the salary in the High School; also by an adjustment of salaries in some of the other schools.

DISCIPLINE.

A word as to this mooted question. The following is suggestive: "*Exact but not severe.*" The day of indiscriminate, habitual flogging is about gone by, or at least should be used only as a final resort. These words might be shaped into a rule: "That *certain* punishment is to follow *every* offence is a much surer preventative

to lawlessness than the possibility of great severity with a chance of escape."

PARENTAL SUPPORT.

Much has been said and written by school committees, complaining of public indifference to the common schools. As a rule, the success of a school is guaranteed when it has the judicious and hearty support of the parents. At any rate, however good the school, however zealous the teacher, without this co-operation there can be, at least, but partial success. Among the many ways suggested of securing this co-operation, visiting the schools is the most common. It awakens pleasant memories, quickens new interest and gives to one a personal knowledge of the schools. We commend this subject. Every citizen is invited to personally inspect the schools. In a town like Montague with upwards of 700 families, more than 500 school children, \$40,000 invested in school property, annually appropriating \$6000 for the maintenance of the schools, do we unwisely express our regrets that less than five per cent. of the parents, and less than one per cent. of the fathers, have their names recorded as visitors in our public schools the past year?

Our report is not so extended as to need recapitulation. We commend the subjects briefly alluded to, to careful attention, hoping for increasing interest on the part of citizens in our educational interests, and for co-operation with the Committee in so far as they can be trusted to carry out their honest convictions.

* * *

SEYMOUR ROCKWELL,
C. H. DANIELS,
W. E. EVERETT, } SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ATTENDANCE AND TEACHERS' WAGES.

SCHOOLS.

	SPRING TERM.	FALL TERM.	WINTER TERM.
SCHOOLS.			
High.....	19	14.00	1
Center Grammar and Intermediate.....	23	18.42	2
City Grammar and Intermediate.....	27	22.66	2
Millers Falls Gram and Intermediate.....	21	18.20	5
Turners Falls Grammar.....	33	25.68	3
Turners Falls 1st Intermediate.....	55	45.83	10
Turners Falls 2nd Intermediate.....	48	42.33	14
Turners Falls 1st Primary.....	52	44.92	5
Turners Falls 2nd Primary.....	64	56.48	10
Turners Falls 3rd Primary.....	55	46.25	9
City Primary.....	53	42.00	5
Millers Falls Primary.....	36	31.12	10
Center Primary.....	47	39.28	10
Federal Street,.....	14	12.64	4
West.....	14	11.27	0
Dry Hill.....	15	10.18	3
Chestnut Hill,.....	11	9.32	2
	<hr/> 587	<hr/> 490.55	<hr/> 95
*Best average during the year.			
Average of Pupils.	\$888	\$88	18
Average of Teachers per Month.	49.00	31	17.00
Average of Teachers per Month.	44.06	39	33.11
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	31	26.83
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	29	16.66
Average of Teachers per Month.	40.00	36	30.00
Average of Teachers per Month.	40.00	51	44.62
Average of Teachers per Month.	50.00	11	36.00
Average of Teachers per Month.	53.00	48	43.55
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	49	41.33
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	52	46.70
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	47	38.60
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	33	30.22
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	20	15.87
Average of Teachers per Month.	36.00	39	32.50
Average of Teachers per Month.	28.00	14	12.58
Average of Teachers per Month.	28.00	24	18.96
Average of Teachers per Month.	28.00	10	8.68
Average of Teachers per Month.	28.00	11	*10.72
Average of Teachers per Month.	543	<hr/> 468.64	<hr/> 113
Average of Teachers per Month.	\$615.56	<hr/> 578	<hr/> 506.07
Average of Teachers per Month.	\$631.56	<hr/> 578	<hr/> 506.07

